

Best Practices For Engaging Transient Populations

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Who are the transient?

“a person who moves from place to place”

- person who is homeless-living on the land
- migrant worker
- “couch surfer”



Who are those living in Chronic Homelessness?

- 45% Have Mental Health Issues

Including: Chronic Depression
Schizophrenia
Bipolar Disorder

- 46% reported alcohol problem
- 38% reported drug addiction
- 27% of homeless in Columbus are considered tri-morbid: substance abuse, mental health issues and a chronic medical condition

Consider the Challenges... for an individual who is homeless



People who live outside
are often more vulnerable than those
who are housed

- Environmental effects and hazards
- Capable of being physically or emotionally wounded or hurt, open to assault
- Open to temptation, persuasion, censure, criticism, open to moral attack, etc.
- Liable or exposed to disease, disaster, etc.





Migrant workers

- One of the most rapidly growing populations in the United States (prior to 2017)
- Significantly affected by HIV infection
- More susceptible to negative health outcomes and HIV infection
- Contributing factors:
 - Little formal education
 - low income status contribute

Migrant workers

The prevalence of HIV infection is between 2.6% and 13% for migrant workers in the United States



Consider the Challenges... for a **migrant worker**

- Social isolation
- Language barriers
- Lack of relationships or familiarity in changing environment
- Sub-standard living conditions
- Difficult and Dangerous Working Conditions

Challenges... for a **migrant worker**

“We used to live 80 in a barn,” he recalls of one job in North Carolina.

“We just had two bathrooms
for 80 people.”

Couch Surfing

“moving from one temporary housing arrangement to another”



Couch Surfing

In a survey of “households with 18- to 25-year-olds, **20.5%** reported ...[they] had couch surfed in the last 12 months”.

- Often attributed to adolescents or young adults
- Others with some limited resources and uncertain circumstances

Consider the Challenges...

for a **person who is couch surfing**

- Daily uncertainty of place to stay
- Feeling of “not belonging” or “in the way”
- Fear for safety
- Feeling or imposed indication of indebtedness
- Limited access to food or daily living needs

EVERYONE
NEEDS HELP
"HAVE YOU EVER
NEEDED HELP?"
GOD BLESS

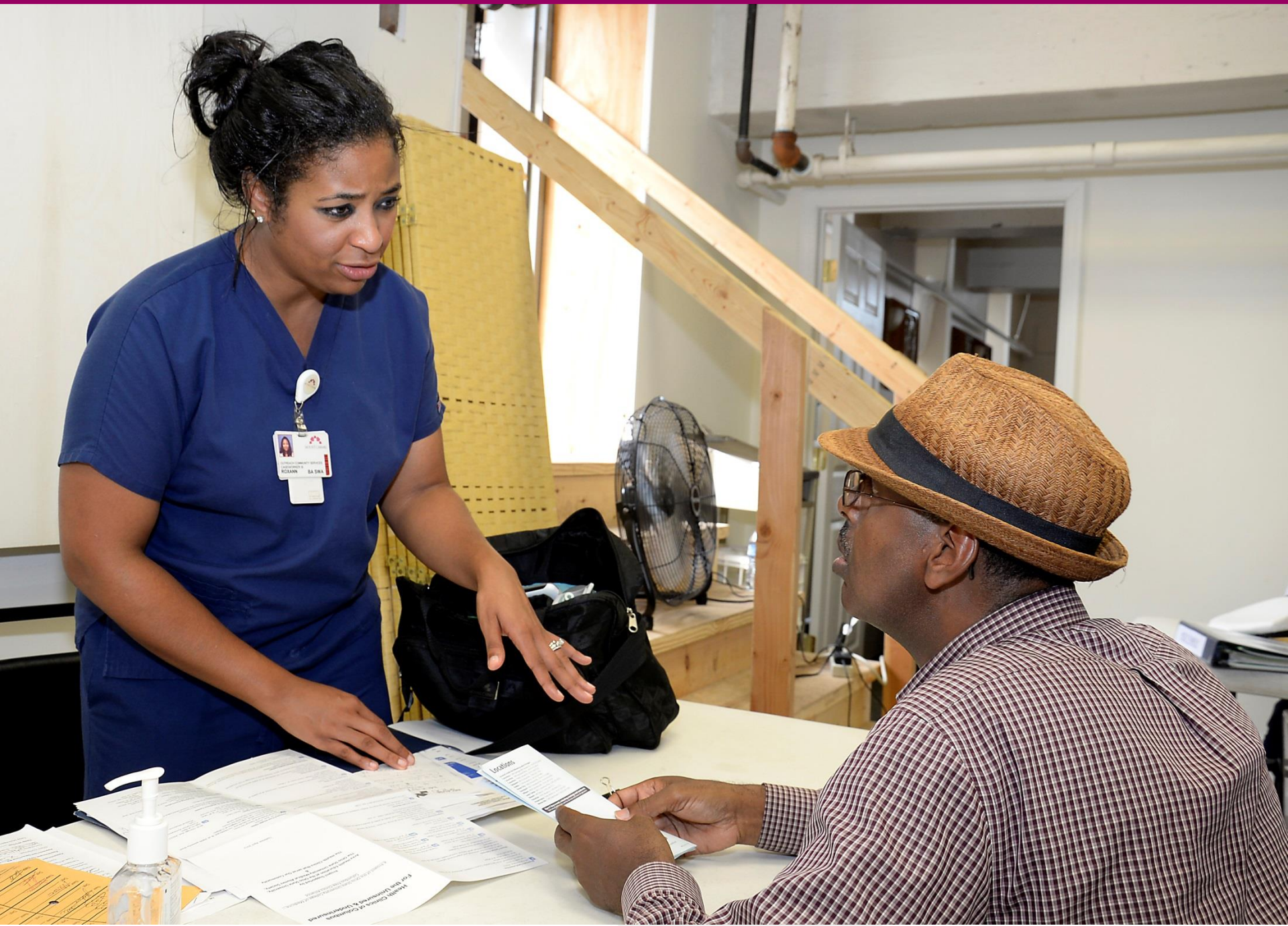


What Can We Do?

- First and foremost: Perspective
 - Separate the person from the circumstance
 - Consider if the person was your loved one
- Develop relationship with the person
- Be forthright and keep our word
- Effectively and consistently implement Trauma Informed Care

What Can We Do?

- Educate Ourselves and Stay Current
 - Update ourselves about issues and challenges facing those we serve
- Ask the questions
- Use Motivational Interviewing
 - Start with what is important to them



What Can We Do?

- Be familiar and promote local and “next stop” resources
- Develop relationships with other service providers
- Provide warm hand-off



Questions?

“It is better to light a candle than
curse the darkness.”

Eleanor Roosevelt